

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 3 illustrates a general method 300 that can be performed by ~~attribute prediction module 135~~ and image processing program 130 that includes attribute prediction module 135 for sampling pixel attribute values of the foreground area and/or the background and rendering the foreground area based on the sampled pixel attribute values. Method 300 begins when a document is provided for output to a display or printer (step 310). The document can include an image 200 having a foreground area 240 and background 230. Next, a target area of foreground area 240 and/or background 230 is identified in the document (step 320). The target area can be a region in foreground area 240 or background area 230 that is associated with (e.g., overlaps) an object in the background or foreground, respectively. A set of pixels to sample is selected from each identified target area (step 330). Attribute values for one or more attributes of the pixels in each sample set are determined (step 340). The attributes can include color and/or transparency. Attribute prediction module 135 determines if there are more pixels in each sample set for which attribute values must be determined (step 350). Once attribute values have been determined for all or a sufficient subset of the pixels in the sample set, attribute prediction module 135 predicts the attribute value for the target area (step 360). Image processing program 130 composites (or renders) the foreground area and the background based on the predicted attribute value for the target area (step 370).